

D. Remarks

The claims are 16-48, with claims 16, 21, 27, 31, 37, 42 and 46-48 being independent. Claims 1-15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 16-48 have been added in their stead. The new claims are based on claims 2, 3, 7, 9 and 10, which the Examiner previously indicated were allowable. The new claims include method claims based on non-elected claim 15, but the new method claims contain all the limitations of the allowed product claims. Accordingly, the method claims should be rejoined at this time. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

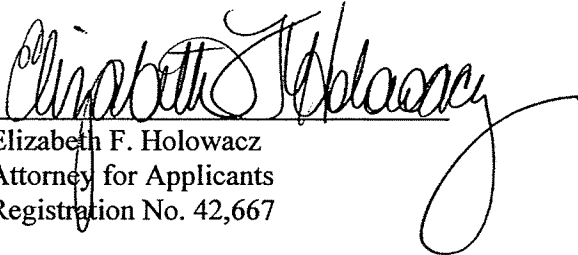
The Examiner has required a title that is more descriptive. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the title to read --SUBSTRATE FOR INK JET HEAD WITH TaCr ALLOY PROTECTIVE LAYER, INK JET HEAD UTILIZING THE SAME AND PRODUCING METHOD THEREFOR--. Removal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Matsuda (U.S. Patent No. 4,596,994). While Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, Applicants have nonetheless amended each of the independent claims to include a limitation found in one of claims 2, 3, 7, 9 or 10, which the Examiner previously indicated were allowable. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the §102 rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and passage to issue is earnestly requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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Application No. 101534,906

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